

# Religious Freedom Amendment

The Religious Freedom Amendment would place an express reference to God in the U.S. Constitution. The amendment (House Joint Resolution 57) reads:

**To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience:**

**--The people retain the right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage, and traditions on public property, including schools.**

**--The United States and the States shall not establish any official religion nor require any person to join in prayer or religious activity.**

This properly follows the solid American belief that our rights come not from government, but from God, and that our government was established to protect our God-given rights. As our Declaration of Independence proclaims: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, *that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights*, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—*That to secure these Rights, governments are instituted among Men . . .*

The Religious Amendment also echoes the standard that has been adopted and applied by each and every one of our 50 States, because each and every one of them has chosen to include an express reference to God within their State constitutions. Here is the list:

## Religious Expression in State Preambles, Mottoes, Seals, and Flags

<b>Alabama</b>	"invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God"
<b>Alaska</b>	"grateful to God and to those who founded our nation...in order to secure and transmit succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty"
<b>Arizona</b>	"grateful to Almighty God for our liberties"
<b>Arkansas</b>	"grateful to Almighty God for the privilege of choosing our own form of government, for our civil and religious liberty"
<b>California</b>	"grateful to Almighty God for our freedom"
<b>Colorado</b>	"with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe"
<b>Connecticut</b>	"acknowledge with gratitude, the good providence of God"
<b>Delaware</b>	"Through Divine goodness, all men have by nature the rights of worshipping and

	serving their Creator according to the dictates of their own conscience.”
<b>Florida</b>	“being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty”
<b>Georgia</b>	“relying upon the protections and guidance of Almighty God”
<b>Hawaii</b>	“grateful for Divine Guidance”
<b>Idaho</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for our freedom”
<b>Illinois</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He has permitted us to enjoy and seeking His blessing upon our endeavors”
<b>Indiana</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the free exercise of the right to choose our own government”
<b>Iowa</b>	“grateful to the Supreme Being for the blessings hitherto enjoyed, and feeling our dependence on Him for a continuation of those blessings”
<b>Kansas</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for our civic and religious privileges”
<b>Kentucky</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political, and religious liberties we enjoy”
<b>Louisiana</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political, economic, and religious liberties we enjoy”
<b>Maine</b>	“acknowledging with grateful hearts the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the universe in affording us an opportunity, so favorable to the design; and imploring God’s aid and direction in its accomplishments, do agree”
<b>Maryland</b>	Not included in CRS information from the Library of Congress
<b>Massachusetts</b>	“acknowledging with grateful hearts, the goodness of the great Legislator of the Universe, in affording us, in the course of His providence, and opportunity”
<b>Michigan</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom”
<b>Minnesota</b>	“grateful to God for our civil and religious liberty”
<b>Mississippi</b>	“grateful to Almighty God, and invoking blessings of freedom”
<b>Missouri</b>	“with profound reverence for the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and grateful for His goodness”
<b>Montana</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty”
<b>Nebraska</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for our freedom”
<b>Nevada</b>	“Grateful to Almighty God for our freedom in order to secure its blessings”
<b>New Hampshire</b>	“unalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of conscience” (from state constitution)
<b>New Jersey</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing upon our endeavors to

secure...”

<b>New Mexico</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of liberty”
<b>New York</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for our Freedom”
<b>North Carolina</b>	“grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations”
<b>North Dakota</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty”
<b>Ohio</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for our freedom”
<b>Oklahoma</b>	“Invoking the guidance of Almighty God”
<b>Oregon</b>	“to worship Almighty God” (from state constitution)
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance”
<b>Rhode Island</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing upon our endeavors”
<b>South Carolina</b>	“grateful to God for our liberties”
<b>South Dakota</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for our civil and religious liberties”
<b>Texas</b>	“Humbly invoking the blessings of Almighty God”
<b>Tennessee</b>	“to worship Almighty God” (from state constitution)
<b>Utah</b>	“Grateful to Almighty God for life and liberty”
<b>Washington</b>	“grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties”
<b>West Virginia</b>	“Since through Divine Providence we enjoy the blessings of civil, political and religious liberty...reaffirm our faith in and constant reliance upon God...”
<b>Wisconsin</b>	“grateful to Almighty God for our freedom”
<b>Wyoming</b>	“grateful to God for our civil, political, and religious liberties”
<b>Vermont</b>	“to worship Almighty God” (from state constitution)
<b>Virginia</b>	“... duty which we owe to our Creator...mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity” (from state constitution)